

THE CARRIER

Volume XLVIII Number 5

www.mdarc.org

May 2000

MDARC

May Meeting
Friday May 19
7:00 PM

Program

The Auction

Doors open at 6:00 PM for sellers

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1035 Carol Lane

Lafayette CA

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All Stations This Frequency

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

MDARC holds a variety of nets on its repeaters. From the Thursday night net to the smallest net where two people meet at the same time to just exchange greetings, these nets serve the Amateur community.

First, it is a great way to see if your equipment is working properly.

Second, it is valuable training for an emergency.

Third, it is a great way to get to know the Amateurs in the area.

I would urge all members to check into at least one net a week. Get that equipment out of the closet. Make sure that it is charged and ready to go for the next time you need it.

I would also like to thank the people that run these nets. You are performing a valuable service. Using the repeaters and getting people to talk is in all of the Amateurs best interests. Thanks also to the people that fill in when the primary net control is unavailable.

So join in.

Support the repeaters and the nets.

Check in Thursday night or pick a smaller net that serves your needs.

73, Greg

Tom's Magic Box Made it All Work!

by Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

The International Arabian Horse Association competitive trailride event, with ham radio support coordinated by Joe Gregory (WA6DQN), took place on April 8, 2000, in the narrow canyons and sharp peaks of the spectacularly beautiful Sunol Regional Wilderness Area. The steep hillsides were fluorescent green from the winter rains and

were dotted with spring wildflowers. There was dense tree growth and thick brush next to rocky creeks, and openings with frog-filled ponds.

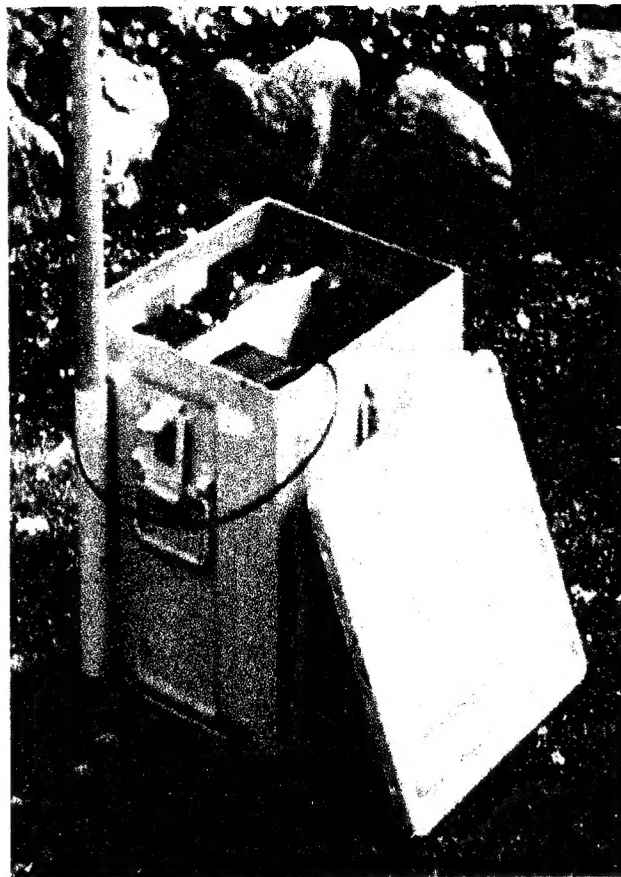
Nine hams, alternately moving about in vehicles, or stationary at various gates and checkpoints, were able to communicate over an approximate ten-mile range with little interruption, despite the very difficult natural obstacles. Because there was no reachable repeater, simplex frequencies had to be used. Different methods of crossband repeating played a vital role in overcoming the obstacles to radio communications.

The contraption that allowed all of us to remain in contact with each other was Tom Seabury's (KO6RO) nifty 2-radio crossbanding unit in a metal box that he put together, with enclosed utility battery and attached antenna. One of the radios in the box was a 440 crystal machine, and the other a 2-meter crystal machine. Tom had some sort of gizmo hooked up between them that allowed the 2 radios to act in tandem as a crossband repeater. The metal box repeater was placed on a ridge and chained to a tree for safe keeping by Tom and John Stuart (KM6QX). Tom and John moved it to two or three different ridge locations during the day for maximum coverage.

During the first half of the event hams on one side of a main dividing ridge transmitted on a 2-meter simplex frequency; they heard each other on 2-meter, but their transmissions were being re-transmitted by the metal box repeater to hams on the other side of the ridge on a 440 simplex frequency. Hams on the other side of the main ridge received and transmitted on the 440 frequency, but their transmissions were being re-transmitted back over the ridge on 2-meter. Even though the two radios in Tom's box put out only 5 and 10 watts respectively, their strategic location and good dual band antenna allowed clear transmissions among the whole radio team.

Tom even set up the capability of turning the box on and off remotely (which needed to be done at one point when a distant signal was picked up and being retransmitted by the crossbander from its ridge-top location).

In addition to the main crossbanding unit, another mobile radio in a jeep was set up by Pete Harris (KE6ZIW) as a crossband repeater, using a different 440 input frequency than the one used by the main crossbanding unit on the ridge. This allowed Pete and nearby ham, Barry Hosier (KE6GQI), who were located in a narrow ravine, to be away from their cars with HT's set on low power to preserve battery life. Barry actually was using a ¼ watt Yaesu VX-1R miniature HT. They could both still put out a strong signal through the jeep crossbander, up to Tom Seabury's main crossbander box



2-radio crossband repeater

on the ridge. Pete and Barry were transmitting on a secondary 440 frequency, which was re-transmitted by the Jeep radio on the main 2-meter frequency to those who could receive it, and which was further re-transmitted by Tom's repeater box on the main 440 frequency to the other side of the main ridge. *It seemed too complicated to think about, but somehow it all worked!*

As the 30 mile competitive trailride progressed during the day, hams had to move to new locations to keep track of the progress of the horses and to bring event judges to various check points before the horses got there. 4-wheel drive vehicles climbed up narrow and steep cliffs, drove up the face of a 2,000 foot high mountain, crossed open meadows, and negotiated narrow, twisty, dirt trails. As each ham moved about during the second half of the event, individuals alternated between transmitting on the main 2-meter frequency and on the main 440 frequency, depending on which seemed more effective from a given point to a given receiver. Whichever frequency was used, Tom's crossbanding box would re-transmit on the other.

Most hams had dual band radios set up to receive both bands at the same time. Sometimes, depending on relative locations, the direct signal from another ham

was the better one, while at other times the repeated signal was the only one that could be received.

The other hams who participated were Drew Hansen (KD6GLY), Mac McIntyre (KE6ZZG), Brian James (KD6DPN), and Len Iverson (WA6SDA). It was a great event and an exciting day for the hams who took part...and Tom's magic box made it all work.

73's Pete, KE6ZIW

Board Minutes 4/3/00

The meeting was called to order by President Greg at 7:30 PM. The minutes from 3 previous meetings were read and approved. It was noted that John Ronan has resigned from VE Chairman because of family problems. He has been replaced by Ron Luttringer, K6XC. It was announced that the church will be available for our meeting on Good Friday.

The 1999 financials as they relate to the income tax reporting for the club. Following review of the major pieces, it was agreed that Treasurer, Marie, will discuss the details of each category at the next month's meeting. The prize fund is \$50 under budget.

The Auction will be May 19. Doors open 6:00 PM and the first sale starts at 7:00 PM. Dennis Fuller will be the Auctioneer.

Membership is 334 with 193 participating in the repeater financing. This amounts to \$10,996 in dues to date.

A new crystal has been ordered for the 2 meter repeater to eliminate the intermod problem. The 220 audio deck wiring has not been completed. The new repeater codes will be distributed and installed in the next 6 weeks. Jay is currently removing non-renewals from the database. It was pointed out that the club will need wide area coverage for the April 29 Top Hat Classic and without the new crystal installed, coverage will be very limited. Jim Brunk was asked to see if the installation could be completed by then. He will follow up with Keith. It was agreed that the Mt. Oso equipment is not accounted for. Some of it has been used on other projects. The Board understands that there will be no accounting for any of that project's related expenses in the future. Dave in the ATV group is taking orders for new crystals for the 1289 Mhz transmit frequency. They expect to have a work party to assist with the installations.

VE testing will have a very high volume on April 21 at 6:00 pm. All VEs are encouraged to be there to assist. If the testing runs long, Greg may delay the beginning of the meeting for 15 minutes so that the VEs can participate.

The ARRL requires all applications for conventions in 2001 to be submitted soon in order that they be included in the QST schedule. Therefore, it was M/S/P to sponsor PACIFICON 2001 in October of that year at the Sheraton Hotel. This will be taken to the membership for final approval. We will sign the Hotel and Hanger contract soon.

Walnut Creek has decided to revisit the Antenna Ordinance again because of a neighborhood dispute with a Ham over his tower that has been grandfathered in the current law. The issue will come before the Walnut Creek City Council on May 18. Contact Harry to confirm that date because it may not be final. Harry will be making the ARRL presentation.

Minutes prepared by
Dick Brown, KT6X

MDARC General Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:45 p.m. after a delay to accommodate the volume of VE business.

Visitors were Bret, N6VIA, from Amador County, new ham Joseph Heckenbach, Harold, from Pleasant Hill, Mike, KD6AMF, Walnut Creek, George, KG6ADV and Barbara, KG6ADU, from Walnut Creek, George, WU7M, Walnut Creek, Cheryl, KF6HEN, Hercules, and Karl, KD6AEE.

The membership approved the club contracting with the Concord Sheraton Hotel for Pacificon 2001, with the dates of October 20-22.

Sam, KO6JR, reminded members who have a change of license class or call to notify him in writing for the membership roster.

Sam also announced the ARRL EB Section Public Service Award is open for nominations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. for further activities.

At 8:02 the evening's speakers were introduced by Terry, KE6WRE. Dick Kors, KM6EP, Dave Joseph, WA6BOY, and Prof. Bob Twiggs, KE6MD of Stanford University, presented a very interesting program on amateur micro-satellites, including hatbox size, soft-drink can size, and small cube size satellites. Professor Twiggs encouraged any ham who was interested in these satellites to contact him to participate in a program of working with school age students in building satellites.

At 9:15 p.m. John, KR6CR, presided over the drawing

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

MDARC



FAMILY PICNIC

SATURDAY JULY 22nd
At JOHN BALDWIN PARK IN CONCORD

11am to 3pm (lunch from 12 to 1)

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!!!!
GAMES.....TRANSMITTER HUNT!!!!!!
\$3.00 for adults. 12 and younger \$1.50
5 years and younger are free.

Send your check payable to MDARC to George Roush at

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Adults _____

6-12yrs _____

under 5 _____

Reservations Due by July 19th

A message from your friendly VE instructor/examiners:

JC Smith, K0HPS

As you all know by now, the new license structure has necessitated new exams. Effective April 15th (black Saturday) you will have to memorize a whole new set of questions. Of course, you could always just learn a little bit about radio and not have to bother to memorize all those questions, but not too many folks do that any more.

To help those dedicated souls who really want to learn the material, we present the following list of helpful ratios and conversion units.

The ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter:

Eskimo Pi

2.4 statute miles of intravenous tubing at Yale University

Hospital: 1 I.V. League

2000 pounds of Chinese soup:

Won ton

1 millionth of a mouthwash:

1 microscope

Speed of a tortoise breaking the sound barrier:

Mach Turtle

Marine oil leaking at 0.1086221 square nautical miles per hour: knot-furlong

365.25 days drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year

16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone:

1 Rod Sterling

Half of a large intestine:

1 semicolon

1,000,000 aches and pains:

1 megahurtz

Basic unit of laryngitis:

1 hoarsepower

Shortest distance between two jokes:

A straight line

Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: bananosecond

A Half-Bath:

1 demijohn

1 trillion microphones:

1 megaphone

1 million bicycles:

2 megacycles

2000 mockingbirds:

two kilomockingbirds

10 cards:

1 decacards

1 kilogram of figs falling 1 meter per second squared:

1 Fig Newton

Mailing Lists

Harry L. Styron <hlstyron@wcrklaw.com>

Information for all MDARC members: There are two email lists maintained for the club: mdarc@contra-costa.net - this list, which is used for messages which are of importance to the club as a whole. Every person who listed an email address on their membership application is put on this list at the beginning of each year. You may stay on or get off, as you wish. Messages to this list are infrequent and are controlled. mdarc-info@contra-costa.net - this list is used to distribute the weekly ARRL Letter and other frequent publications of specific interest. You are not on this list unless you have subscribed to it. If you are getting the ARRL letter each week (more or less) then you have already subscribed. No one is put on or taken off this list except if they do it themselves. To subscribe to mdarc-info send an email to mdarc-info-request@contra-costa.net with the one word "subscribe" (no quotes) in the subject or as the first word of the text, or both. To unsubscribe from either list, send an email to mdarc-request@contra-costa.net or mdarc-info-request@contra-costa.net (whichever list you want to unsubscribe to) with the one word "unsubscribe" (no quotes) in the subject, or as the first word of the text, or both. To change your email address, subscribe with the new one, and, if you can, unsubscribe from the old one. If you can't unsubscribe, don't worry about it because the mail server does mark bounced messages, and it will eventually be caught. Do not send messages for changes of address to either list or to me. Use the automated procedure. Thanks

73Harry Styron, K6HS

Upcoming Radio Communication Events

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

The events listed below are coming up in the near future and *still have some slots available*. For most events all you need is a hand-held 2 meter radio and an extra battery. Give me a call or email to sign up (925-228-4503, odyssey@ccnet.com). Let me know about any other individual events you want to coordinate. If you want more information about a particular event, call me or the event coordinator. If you are new to this and want to break in gently, we can team you up with another ham.

4th of July Parade (morning)

7/4/00, Pleasant Hill

Event Coordinator: Bob Williams, 925-934-1873

4th of July Fireworks Celebration (evening)

7/4/00, San Ramon

Event Coordinator: Ed Ritchie, 925-837-3265

Sign up! You'll have a great time and be giving something valuable back to your community.

73's Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

MDARC Auction May 19, 2000

Just a reminder, the Auction is this month. Doors open at 6:00 PM for the sellers. The auction begins at 7:00 PM and ends 10:00 PM sharp.

Everyone participating in the auction will need to sign in and pick up a numbered paddle. This will be your number for the evening. Sellers must fill out a seller's form for each item for sale. Forms will be available at the auction or use the form provided at the bottom of the next page. This should be a fun event, everyone is welcome, I hope to see you there.

John Schulze, KR6CR

Auction Chair

FCC says Generals not allowed From ARRL

The FCC says newly upgraded General class licensees may not operate in the current Advanced class subbands under the new amateur rules. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division notes that no privileges changed for any license class.

The Advanced class license continues to exist under restructuring, which became effective April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. Current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, when they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals remain ineligible to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs.

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Janet, WA7WWS, Mgr.
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(910) 442-7285
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K4BHY, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5

OAKLAND, CA 94606
2210 Livingston St.
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, K6CFF, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

RAM ORANGE, CA 92623
5275 Kennedy Villa Rd.
(619) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, K2SKL, Mgr.
Hwy. 103 & Claremont Mesa

SUNNYVALE, CA 94086
510 Lawrence Expwy. #102
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Ken, K120M, Mgr.
KDMHAMRADIO.COM
Lawrence Expwy.
So. from Hwy. 101

NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
1008 N. DuPont Hwy.
(302) 322-7022
(800) 844-4476
Ben, W1BSC, Mgr.
RT. 13 1/4 mi. So. I-295

PORTLAND, OR 97223
11700 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
(503) 586-0555
(800) 854-6046
Carl, K2TDA, Mgr.
Tigard-ORW exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217

SEASIDE, CA 92081
9408 E. 8th Ave., #9
(302) 745-7373
(800) 444-6476
Joe, K0DNA, Mgr.

PRINCETON, AZ 85021
1329 W. Dunlap Ave.
(602) 242-2515
(800) 444-6476
Gary, W87SLV, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17

ATLANTA, GA 30340
6071 Buford Highway
(770) 263-5700
(800) 444-7027
John, K6BSC, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. east of I-285

WINDSORBORO, VT 22101
Washington D.C. Ave.
(603) 642-1083
(800) 444-6789
Rick, K4BSC, Mgr.
Exit 101, I-95, So. to US 1

SALISBURY, NH 03079
Rte. 101, I-95, So. to US 1
(603) 444-6789
Chuck, K6BSC, Mgr.
CIVILIANRADIO.COM
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resellers and sales tax.
Prices, specifications,
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• 12V Gen. Cov. RX, 6.4 lbs., 7.16 x 2.4 x 9.32"
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CALL NOW!

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YAESU

FT-51R
2M/440MHz HT
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• 120 Memories
• Spectroscopy
• DTMF Paging
• Corded S.O.L. Built-in
Special Low Pricing!

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• Multi-Speed scanning
• Call For Introductory Pricing!

FT-1000MP HF Transceiver
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• Dual RX
• Collins SSB filter built-in
• 100W Power supply built-in
Call Now For Low Intro. Pricing!

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(800) 854-6046

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2210 Livingston St.
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CALL NOW FOR LOW INTRO PRICE!

IC-706 HF/VHF Transceiver
• 100W HF
• 100W V Meters
• 10W Z Meters
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IC-775/OSP HF Transceiver
• 200W HF Transceiver - 101 memories
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• Digital automatic notch - Digital LPF and HPF
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• Twin PPT - Dual watch
Call Now For The Ultimate Radio!

DX-70T HF Transceiver
100W 100-10 Mhz - 10W 6M, 6ancev. Rx
Full DSP, 100 Memos - Compact, Removable
Dual VFO, 12VDC - 6.2 lbs.

Membership Report – May 2000

Please welcome our new and returning members, upgrades (including some restructuring upgrades) and note changes to other entries. Keep this page with your directory to keep it up to date. Please forward all changes to KO6JR at a meeting, at the PO box or at ko6jr@arrl.net. 73, Sam

Name, Call, License Class; Spouse Name & Call Address, Phone numbers, e-mail	* = Rocky Ridge Supporter
* Anthony, Don, N6SIA (E); 1250 Castle Rock, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (h) 925-932-2952 Bowers, Stewart E.(Stew), WB6FBB (E); Joyce 348 Glorietta Blvd, Orinda, CA 94563 (h) 925-254-0804	n6sia@aol.com e-mail change stewbow@yahoo.com new member
* Cottrell, Mark A., KF6TTB (G); 4838 Sandy Lane, San Jose, CA 95124 (h) 408-369-1113 (w) 408-588-8474	mark@cottrell.net new member
* Dearborn, Terry, W6HPC (G); Laurel 3812-A Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549 (h) 925-283-2913	terrylau@flash.net e-mail change
* Driscoll, Reginald F.(Reggie), WA6ZAP (G); Linda 1224 Saint Elizabeth Ct, Concord, CA 94518 (h) 925-825-1252	rfdriscoll@worldnet.att.net renewal
Hall, Bill, KB9M (E); 2412 Los Prados Wy, Antioch, CA 94509 (h) 925-778-0977	kb9m@earthlink.com e-mail change
Hatch, David(Dave), KA6AOR (G); Kia 3716 Manacor Ct, San Ramon, CA 94583 (h) 925-830-9045	dphatch@aol.com new member
Hey, Ernest G.(Ernie), ; Helene 22 Fieldbrook Pl, Moraga, CA 94556 (h) 925-376-3737	new member
* Johnson, Harold, SWL; 111 Cleareland Road #2, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (h) 925-287-1054 (w) 888-272-0048 (fax) 888-272-0048	hjohnsen@jps.net new member
* Kornbau, Jerry, AA4JK (E); 217 Cannery Ct, Pittsburg, CA 94565 (h) 925-432-6646	aa4jk@arrl.net renewal
* Lewis, Marie P., KF6GLV (T); Don 1463 Treat Blvd #1236, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (h) 925-933-0420	kf6glv@arrl.net e-mail change
* Musselman, Chris, W6ATV (E); 22910 Sutro St., Hayward, CA 94541 (h) 510-581-2981	w6atv@arrl.net renewal
* Patterson, Marsha, KE6WKD (T); Mike KE6JGA 2270 English Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (h) 925-944-8786	MARSHAKPAT@HOTMAIL.COM e-mail change
* Patterson, Mike, KE6JGA (T); Marsha KE6WKD 2270 English Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (h) 925-944-8786 (w) 925-842-5019 (fax) 925-842-4905	ke6jga@arrl.net e-mail change
* Stuart, Lee, Pending (T); John KM6QX 3449 Solana Ct, Lafayette, CA 94549 (h) 925-283-2797 (w) 925-284-5300	jwstuart@earthlink.net new member
Tomsik, Patricia, SWL; Dick KJ6YE 2089 Sherman Dr, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (h) 925-825-1331 (fax) 925-680-8951	tomsik@community.net renewal
Tomsik, Richard(Dick), KJ6YE (A); Patricia 2089 Sherman Dr, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (h) 925-825-1331 (fax) 925-680-8951	tomsik@community.net renewal
Wood, John, KF6HFA (G); Midge KF6OGC 5948 Fern St, El Cerrito, CA 94530 (h) 510-234-0527	john@otherlife.net upgrade

M. D. A. R. C. AUCTION		OFFICE USE ONLY									
PLACE AN "X" HERE <input type="checkbox"/> IF PROCEEDS GO TO CLUB		ITEM #									
ITEM DESCRIPTION:		BUYER'S #									
		SELLING PRICE	B/B								
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/>								
CONDITION: Works? _____ Needs work? _____											
REMARKS (Bands, Power Supply, etc.,) _____											
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05/19/2000	6:00 PM	MDARC Auction	
05/20/2000	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
05/26/2000		Deadline for June Carrier	
06/05/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
06/16/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	
06/17/2000	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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